

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Hurricanes Rita and Katrina

SITUATION REPORT 19

1300 Hours September 23, 2005

WEATHER

Forecast:: *Mostly sunny across the Commonwealth with high's in the upper 80's to mid 90's, with a chance of thunderstorms. Mostly clear tonight with lows in the 60's.*

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: *The Virginia EOC is at Increased Readiness Condition and is monitoring National Hurricane Center advisories for Hurricane Rita and Tropical Storm Philippe.*

State of Emergency: Governor Mark R. Warner declared a limited state of emergency within the Commonwealth on August 31, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. Governor Warner announced Virginia is offering to shelter a minimum of 4,000 evacuees. The Governor requested a Presidential disaster declaration on September 6, 2005 to assist with Virginia's relief effort. The President approved Governor Warner's request for an emergency declaration on September 10, 2005. The incident period will begin on August 29, 2005 authorizing 100% federal funding for Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures). The assistance is for all 95 counties and 40 independent cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Protective Actions: Local EOC Activations: None at this time.

Local Emergency Declared: None at this time.

Evacuations: Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from the Gulf States. The American Red Cross, voluntary organizations, and state agencies are providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees.

Schools Closed: None at this time.

OPERATIONS SECTIONS

State Warning Point: Continuing to receive and disseminate situation reports from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina impacted states.

TOWN PICKETT

Secretary Woods is continuing discussions regarding the voluntary transfer of shelterees to Town Pickett. In preparation for Hurricane Rita, FEMA has asked states to submit capacity information on September 20, and Virginia reported a capacity of 1,400. Administrative and security staffs remain at Town Pickett and all agencies are on standby for implementation within 12-24 hours.

VIRGINIA EVACUEES

FEMA and Red Cross registrations indicate that there may be as many as 10,000 people in Virginia who evacuated from the areas impacted by Katrina.

Red Cross reports 3,545 applicants (1 applicant per household – 7,805 people). The largest numbers continue to be in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. To determine the general status of the evacuees, VDEM staff surveyed in-state Red

Cross chapters who have reported Katrina cases. The survey results indicate that some people evacuated in advance of the storm and others came after the storm. Many of the evacuees the Red Cross has seen are low-to-moderate income and were renting accommodations in Louisiana or Mississippi. Their situations right now are not urgent, although they have not yet made many of their crucial decisions such as whether to stay in Virginia, find employment, and find housing in their current location.

Red Cross has extended its support of evacuees in hotels an additional two weeks – to 30 days. Red Cross casework will continue as long as the applicant is receiving federal disaster assistance.

FEMA reports are unavailable today, due to FEMA system issues. FEMA is going to provide further data from its database this week. There continue to be questions concerning the implementation of the regular FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for evacuees. It is not known at this time whether FEMA is sending funds to applicants in Virginia or is delaying distribution of funds until current interim housing (Red Cross) eligibility expires. Discussions with FEMA are ongoing.

Government Programs Assisting Evacuees:

Department of Social Services has enrolled **2,348** in the “e-Medicaid” health care assistance program administered by the Department of Medical Assistance. They also report 840 calls on their Information and Referral line, and 518 cases for TANF/Food Stamps (TANF-temporary assistance for needy families)

U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a new policy for evacuees applying for disaster food stamps. Households from the affected counties can receive a one-month maximum allotment, regardless of income, resources or non-financial factors.

Department of Education reports that **1,212** students are enrolled in public schools and an additional **171** children have enrolled in pre-schools. The schools have also enrolled 7 special needs children. **The school districts with the largest numbers of evacuee students are in the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia regions.**

Head Start programs have enrolled 49 children so far.

College and university enrollments of students from Gulf Coast region: University of Virginia (140), George Mason University (40), Virginia Commonwealth university (38), University of Richmond (33), Virginia Union University (3), Virginia State University (4), Randolph Macon College (10) and **Norfolk State University (8).**

WIC (women, infants and children) programs are accepting women from impacted states and waiving an ID. They use “homeless” protocols to be able to service clients, but they cannot track the evacuees separately and therefore do not know the exact number.

The Hurricane Housing Transition Center at VHCD is accepting calls from housing providers and calls that come through the VPIC. The housing number is 1-804-225-8989.

Virginia Employment Commission reports that more than 400 people have applied for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

Mental Health – Community Services Boards are providing behavioral health services to evacuees across the Commonwealth.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Virginia VOAD: Southeast Virginia VOAD – several volunteers have been trained by

Southeast Virginia Red Cross chapter to help with registration of evacuees.

EMAC

The total number of personnel from Virginia deployed through EMAC is 603. The total number of EMAC personnel from Virginia in the impact areas today is 179. The VEOC is coordinating 86 open requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Posting EMAC requests for state and/or local agency response on the Online EOC. Currently supporting 7 EMAC missions in Louisiana and 5 in Mississippi. Awaiting responses from requesting states on approximately 31 proposals to respond to EMAC missions with 12 active missions on the ground. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (VDCJS) and Arlington County are providing staffing at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to assist with EMAC. Five missions are complete.

Chesterfield County – A 7 person Incident Management Team from Chesterfield County deployed to the New Orleans Fire Emergency Operations Center. The County's Mobile Command Post and 4 personnel deployed to Baton Rouge in support of Louisiana State Police. Ten personnel deployed to Mississippi with Law Enforcement Task Force # 1. A total of 21 personnel deployed.

Northern Virginia Localities - Two ten-person Incident Management Teams from the region deployed to assist the New Orleans Emergency Operations Center. VDEM Regional Coordinator deployed with one of the teams. Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Division Chief 7 deployed with one of these teams. Six-person Incident Management Team deployed to the NASA Complex Mississippi. Four-person IMT deployed to Louisiana Office of Emergency Management in Baton Rouge. Thirty-person IMT deployed to Harrison County Mississippi for State Emergency Management Office. Fifty-person fire fighting task force with equipment deployed to Hancock County Fire Command. A total of 110 personnel deployed from the region.

Virginia Beach - One person deployed with IMT Fire to Louisiana.

Prince William County - One person deployed with IMT Fire to Louisiana.

Henrico County – Five personnel deployed with Law Enforcement Task Force #1 to Mississippi.

STATE ACTIVITIES

Virginia National Guard (VNG) - Currently there are 3 Virginia National Guardsmen deployed to the Gulf area through EMAC. Virginia National Guard personnel are returning to Virginia.

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy (DMME) – DMME is monitoring the fuel supply for changes based on Hurricane Rita. Hurricane Rita continues to affect refineries and oil production in the Gulf area. In VA, the major oil companies and terminals have placed their customers on allocation. There have been isolated reports of shortages of certain grades of gasoline and escalating disruption is a likely scenario. DEQ requested an extension by the EPA of the RFG waiver for the Richmond area (also to be extended state-wide). Waiver extension for Richmond only was granted through September 30. Return of normal refinery operations in the Texas Gulf area will be dependent on storm and storm surge magnitude and duration. Pipelines moving product to the east coast are currently fully operational and Colonial pipeline reported it could replace some of the TX refined product with products from refineries further east. DMME is surveying the petroleum industry and will continue to monitor the supply situation for any changes. According to Department Of Energy, there are still 4 Katrina refineries down. They represent a little more than 5 percent of U.S. refining capacity. As of yesterday afternoon, 17 of the 21 refineries in the current hurricane path area were reported closed. This represents approximately 20% of US refining capacity. As of yesterday, approximately 92% of Gulf oil production was shut-in.

Department of Transportation – An ample supply of gasoline is available for normal operations for approximately 58 days, and diesel fuel supply for approximately 37 days.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) - There are 20 personnel deployed to Mississippi to manage a food and supply distribution center. Two people are in Texas preparing for Hurricane Rita response (VICC request). A total of 22 personnel are deployed.

Virginia State Police (VSP) – Deployed 22 personnel with Law Enforcement Task Force #1 to Mississippi through EMAC.

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) - Deployed 10 personnel with Law Enforcement Task Force #1 to Mississippi through EMAC.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management – Six Community Relations Reservists deployed to Mississippi to perform community outreach activities with FEMA counterparts.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) - Virginia Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)-1 – A 33 person deployment team and a five person Medical Strike Team are staged in San Antonio, Texas in support of Hurricane Rita. Prince William County Environmental Health manager deployed to Louisiana. Lenowisco Health District food safety specialist deployed on 09/16 with Red Cross to San Antonio, Texas, working in public affairs at Kelly Air Force Base. There are also 2 Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) personnel, in support of DMORT operations and 1 VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas in support of FEMA. **Fifteen** Medical Reserve Corp groups have been activated, most through Red Cross, for deployment in support of local operations and target area support operations. **Forty-two (42) MRC personnel are deployed on out-of-state missions, including 5 personnel from Roanoke Health Department (Red Cross mission), and 49 are supporting operations in Virginia, for a total of 91 MRC personnel. VDH is supporting Town Pickett readiness efforts.**

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Citizen Corps volunteers are assisting with local emergency management efforts in support of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts across the state. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers have been deployed through their local Red Cross chapters. Medical Reserve Corp personnel deployments are reflected above in the VDH report.

The Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) reports **4** calls received on Thursday, September 22. The total number of calls received to date is **824**. The VPIC hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm until further notice.

The Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, activated under 1st Air Force, continues to fly transport and recon missions in and out of New Orleans. **Three aircraft with 6 personnel deployed.**

Prepared by: Judy W. Cooling
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Harry Colestock, Operations Director